

It is not unlikely that other officers may hereafter be created, which for reasons of a similar character would have to be placed within the limits of the city.

In the opinion of your Committee it is manifest, that public convenience would be greatly promoted by some arrangement which would bring together and permanently provide, the accommodation needed for the various officers referred to, whether the object in view could be best effected by the immediate purchase of a building, or by procuring for a period upon lease, at a reasonable sum, such accommodation as would sufficiently meet the existing necessity, is a matter to which your Committee have directed their careful attention.

Your Committee visited and inspected a number of properties in the city offered for sale to them, several of them very eligibly located, and well calculated with modifications, to answer the uses contemplated. Among these properties the most advantageous in point of location, and of the plan of its construction, and character and dimensions of the lot of ground occupied by it, as well as reasonableness of price asked for same appeared to be that situated at the Northeast corner of Calvert and Lexington Streets. The lot has a front of 72 feet on the East side of Calvert Street, with a depth of 100 feet on Lexington Street, running back to Davis Street, thus giving a frontage on three streets. At present it is improved by two buildings, one of them, the corner house is a large double house occupied as a private residence 43 by 60 feet in dimensions. The other is a large dwelling, fronting 29 feet on Calvert street, the whole property can be bought for about sixty thousand dollars. To render the buildings available for the States purposes, the expenditure of some twenty thousand dollars, would be necessary, which would give not only the amplest accommodation for present and prospective uses, but would also make an elegant and imposing structure, whilst its very central position and near proximity to all other Public Buildings of the city would prove of great advantage.

Your Committee say that in their opinion this property is superior and preferable to all others which have been brought before them, looking at all the qualifications which it possesses and which should be combined. No one of the properties submitted to them for the purpose was offered at a lower price than fifty thousand dollars, and it excelled the others in several particulars. Taking the cost of alteration the outlay required for the purchase and improvement would be about \$80,000.

Your Committee have also to report another proposition made to them in this connection. The owner of the build-